



DEPARTMENT OF  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES  
CONTROL

*The mission of the  
Department of Toxic  
Substances Control is  
to provide the  
highest level of safety,  
and to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



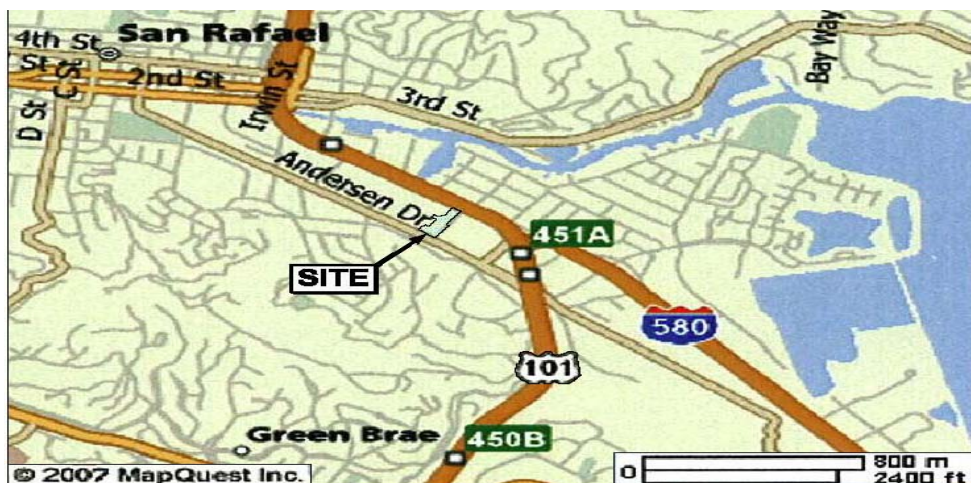
State of California



Cal/EPA

Fact Sheet. February 2008

## Environmental Cleanup of the former Specification Chrome & Western Plating and Polishing Facilities



Map of Site Location

### INTRODUCTION

A plan for the proposed cleanup of contaminated soil at the former Specification Chrome and Western Chrome Plating and Polishing facilities, located at 694 and 708-738 West Francisco Boulevard in the city of San Rafael, is available for public review and comment. The proposed cleanup consists of excavating soil, transporting the soil to an offsite permitted disposal facility, and implementing a land use covenant limiting future development to only commercial/industrial uses.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a Department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, is overseeing the cleanup at this site.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD February 25, 2008 to March 26, 2008

The proposed cleanup plan and other related documents are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. A final decision will be made after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments, or email your comments no later than 5 p.m. **March 26, 2008** to:

Mr. Nebu John  
DTSC Project Manager  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630  
[njohn@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:njohn@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al  
(818) 717-6573 o número gratis 1-866-495-5651. For more information about the DTSC, please visit  
our web site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)*



## Site History

During the last 50 years, various businesses engaged in chrome plating and polishing, automobile and motorcycle painting and service, sales and storage, and warehousing operated at the 1.9 acre site. Western Chrome Plating & Polishing and Specification Chromium Corporation operated onsite hazardous waste treatment units pursuant to State of California Permit-By-Rule (PBR) authorization.

The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) has purchased approximately 1 acre of the site unaffected by past plating operations as part of the Highway 101 expansion project. In addition, Sonnen Motorcars proposes to build a new commercial building on the remaining property for new vehicle sales and storage.

## Environmental Investigations

Various site investigations were conducted to evaluate the potential environmental impacts from historical operations at the site. More than 125 soil samples and 9 groundwater samples were collected and analyzed to determine the type, concentration and extent of contaminants. The investigation results show that some shallow soil is contaminated with metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and petroleum hydrocarbons in a few areas at concentrations which require cleanup.

## Proposed Cleanup Plan

The proposed remedy for this site includes the excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soils and recording a land use covenant. Approximately 325 cubic yards of soil will be removed from several areas onsite to about 5 feet below ground surface, and the soil will be loaded into trucks and transported to an off-site permitted disposal facility. Removal of soil will continue until soil confirmation samples show that commercial /industrial cleanup goals are met.

The proposed soil removal will take about sixty days to complete. Approximately 27 trucks will be required to transport the soil from the site to the

disposal facility. This estimate is based on work occurring during daylight hours Monday through Friday.

After the soil removal is completed, a land use covenant, signed by DTSC and property owner, will be recorded with the Marin County Office of the Clerk-Recorder and will restrict future use of the land for only commercial/industrial uses. DTSC has authority to enforce the covenant under state law.

## What You Can Expect to See in Your Neighborhood

If the cleanup plan is approved, you can expect to see the following cleanup activities:

- Onsite construction equipment will operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Personnel onsite will use standard construction machinery and safety gear.
- Dust control and monitoring measures will be implemented to minimize and control the generation of dust to protect workers and the public.
- Trucks transporting soil from the site to the disposal facility will use West Francisco Boulevard, Anderson Drive and Belam Boulevard to Interstate 580/State Highway 101. Flagmen will be used to direct truck traffic to and from the site as necessary.

To protect onsite workers and the surrounding community during the cleanup activities, field work is to be conducted according to a site-specific Health and Safety Plan. The following are some of the activities in the plan:

- Using protective clothing and gloves by workers;
- Misting of soil with water to minimize dust;
- Covering trucks before they leave the site;
- Monitoring the air to ensure dust stays at safe levels;
- Using plastic sheeting to cover contaminated soil that may be left in place overnight; and
- Removing and packaging of protective clothing while onsite and ensuring proper disposal.

## **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review**

DTSC is required to review all environmental activities under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to ensure that the proposed cleanup will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment. DTSC has determined that the proposed cleanup will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment, due to the controlled manner in which the cleanup will be done. Our findings are documented in a Draft Notice of Exemption which is available at the locations listed in this fact sheet.

## **Response to Comments**

After the public comment period ends, DTSC will review and consider all comments received and make any necessary revisions to the proposed plan prior to final approval. Anyone who submits their comments and address will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. A copy of the "Response to Comments" document will be available at locations listed on this page.

## **Where to Find Site Related Documents**

The proposed cleanup is presented in detail in the Corrective Measures Proposal and is available for review by the public at:

### **San Rafael Public Library – Reference Desk**

City of San Rafael Library  
1110 E Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
(415) 485-3323

### **City of San Rafael Library – Pickleweed**

City of San Rafael Library  
50 Canal Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
(415) 485-3483

## **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

5796 Corporate Avenue

Cypress, CA 90630

Hours: 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

Contact: Julie Johnson for an appointment

(714) 484-5337

## **DTSC Contacts**

If you have any questions about the investigation or cleanup at this site, please call:

Nebu John

DTSC Project Manager

(714) 484-5475

[njohn@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:njohn@dtsc.ca.gov)

*For media inquiries, please call:*

Sandra Friedman, Public Information Officer

(714) 484-5383

[sfriedman@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:sfriedman@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can obtain additional information about the cleanup by calling the California State Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378).

## PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

If you have any comments concerning the proposed environmental cleanup of **Specification Chrome and Western Plating** site, please fill out the information below and mail this form to Nebu John, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630 or email to [njohn@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:njohn@dtsc.ca.gov). Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the written Response to Comments. All comments must be postmarked or emailed no later than March 26, 2008.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or Organization (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

please add to the site mailing list. ☐ please delete from the site mailing list.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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*DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.*

State of California  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Nebu John  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630